(d) There is no other allegation against the Chief Minister of Sikkim which is under investigation by the CBI.

Action on Savoor Commission Report

1983. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a one-man Commission with Shri R. R. Savoor as the head, to review the postal system in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the report and its recommendations; and

(d) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Only in respect of the system of extra departmental agency and branch post offices.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has made 171 recommendations. The salient features of the report and its recommendations are as under:

(i) The Committee has supported the theory of 'equal pay for equal work' and recommended hourly rate comparable to the wages of Departmental staff, for the extra-departmental staff;

(ii) Payment of DA to E.D. employees as and when it is sanctioned to regular employees.

(iii) E. D. System to continue in the Postal set up for performance of Postal functions only. It has recommended abolition of all categories of E. D. employees excepting (i) E.D. Banch Postmasters (ii) E.D. Delivery Agents (iii) Mail Carrier (iv) ED Packer and (v) ED Mail man.

(iv) Abolition of the cadre of ED stamp vendors.

(v) All ED Banch Offices (12,662) working within 3 Kms of each other in violation of the existing standards to be closed.

(vi) All ED Banch Offices (about 35,374) which do not earn income equal to 20 per cent of their cost to be closed and postal facilities to be provided through Licensed Postal Agency (L.P.A.) system at a monthly retainer fee of Rs. 50/-.

(vii) The permissible limit of loss per annum of retaining an E.D. Office after Five Years of its opening to be raised to Rs. 2400 from the existing limit of 25 per cent of the estimated cost. In the case of Hilly & Backward areas to be raised to Rs. 4,800 per annuam from 10 per cent of the estimated cost.

(viii) An E.D. Office may be allowed to be retained after 5 years only if it earns at least 50 per cent of its cost and is also with in the annual loss limit referred to in item (vii) above.

(ix) Seventh plan target of opening of new EDBOs to be reviewed.

(x) (a) Combination of functions of EDBPM, EDDA, ED Packer in one individual wherever feasible and compensating the individual on separate hourly rate basis as stated at (i) above.

(b) To revise the present norm of keeping a B.O. open compulsorily for 3 hours irrespective of the workload.

(xi) Abolition of orderlies for Sub-Divisional IPOs and paying a lump sum amount in lieu thereof.

(xii) Abolition of the cadre of mail overseer.

(xiii) Introduction of a cadre of Assistant Sub-Divisional Inspector.

(xiv) Evolving time test for assessing workhour in each B.O. on the same principle as it is done for Departmental Offices.

(xv) Minimum service for eligibility to receive gratuity to be reduced to 5 years from 15 years.

(xvi) The amount of gratuity to be paid at the rate of half months emoluments for every completed year of service.

(xvii) Maximum age limit for recruitment of ED Agents to be 28 years and minimum educational qualifications to be 8th standard.

(d) The recommendations made by the Committee are under active consideration of the Government

Crimes against women

1084. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime against women in the metropolitan towns has been on the increase;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures showing the different types of crimes against women that took place during 1983, 1984, 1985 and till the end of October, 1986; and

(c) what specific steps have been taken to effectively curb this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) No specific crime has been mentioned Subjects of 'Public Order' and 'Police' are in the State List according to VII Schedule to the Constitution. Action for the detection/investigation and prevention of the crime is taken by the State Governments.

Exemption from Forest Conservation Act for Irrigation and Power Projects

1085. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANTA BHANDARE:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have been considering the question of exempting certain irrigation and power projects initiated prior to 1980 from the relevant provisions of the Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, what are the details of such projects; and

(c) what is the extent of forest area likely to be denuded with the implementation thereof and what is Government's final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR Z. R. ANSARI): (a) In projects where specific orders for dereservation or diversion of forest lands were issued by the State Governments prior to the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, permission of the Central Government under the said Act is not required. However, in cases where only administrative approval was given for projects prior to the coming into force of the Act without the issuance of orders of dereservation and diversion of forest lands, prior approval of the Central Government would be required and no exemption of such cases is being contemplated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.